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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 INFORMATION FROM  
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REPORT

CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY Rumania

DATE OF  
INFORMATION 1951SUBJECT Economic - Industry  
Scientific - Miscellaneous, industrial research,  
institutesHOW  
PUBLISHED Monthly periodical

DATE DIST. 5 Nov 1952

WHERE  
PUBLISHED Bucharest

NO. OF PAGES 5

DATE  
PUBLISHED Dec 1951

LANGUAGE Rumanian

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Probleme Economice.WEAKNESSES OF 1951 TECHNICAL PLAN IN RUMANIA

The technical plan of the RPR (Rumanian People's Republic), which resembles the technical plan of the First Five-Year Plan of the USSR, provides for scientific research projects of industrial significance, the development and introduction of new methods, and the adoption of mechanization in mines and factories. This plan was introduced to implement the fulfillment of the Rumanian Five-Year Plan which began in 1951. The Five-Year Plan calls for an increase in industrial production, in the cutting of production costs through the use of modern machinery and new methods, through increased labor productivity, and the utilization of smaller quantities of raw materials.

The following article discusses the weaknesses of the 1951 technical plan, as found in the scientific research projects, technical organizational measures, and mechanization.

Engineers A. Smuc and L. Mascovici

To aid in the drawing up of the technical plan of the RPR for 1952 it is important to study mistakes and achievements of past plans and to benefit by them. The 1952 technical plan is divided as follows:

1. Technical-Economic Indexes for Utilization of Raw Materials
2. Mechanization
3. Assimilation of New Products
4. New Technological Processes
5. Scientific Research
6. Technical Organizational Measures

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Of these items, scientific research, new technological processes, and mechanization, were the least properly applied in past years. Scientific research has proved to be of value in many fields, but there were errors and deficiencies which cut down the value of the entire plan.

#### Scientific Research

Among recent industrial research projects which have given concrete results in the RPR are the following: (a) petroleum industry -- utilization of the acid residues from the refining of cracked and reformed benzine; (b) iron and steel industry -- high resistant and malleable wrought iron and the production of refractory bricks; (c) chemical industry -- production of magnesite from dolomite, of sulfathiazole, and of numerous reagents; (d) building materials industry -- metallurgical cement and sponge glass, and others. Important successes were also achieved in the coal and cellulose-paper industries and others. The number of research institutes almost doubled during 1950.

Despite the successes achieved in 1950, however, scientific research projects suffered from a series of mistakes. These mistakes included faulty organization, lack of facilities and qualified personnel, absence of scientific advisory bodies in the ministries, and failure to provide the necessary funds on time.

Thus, during the first three quarters of 1950, before the publication of the Decision of the Council of Ministers on the improvement of research work in the departmental institutes, research work was conducted without any uniform regulations governing the departmental research institutes. Planning, execution, and follow-up of research projects were not systematic or well organized. These defects affected both the general plan for scientific research and the work of some departmental research institutes, which failed to fulfill the research plan. In some cases, for example, there was insufficient collaboration between the research workers in institutes and the enterprises which were applying the results of the research. For example, in the pharmaceutical industry gramisan (an anti-malaria drug) was developed by research institutes, but could not be produced successfully by factories.

Other deficiencies during 1950 in the field of research were: insufficient coordination between the departmental research institutes and the scientific institutes of the RPR Academy, failure to apply the results of certain research projects already concluded, and failure to provide the material means for all the research projects under the plan.

In 1951, scientific research work began to develop under more favorable conditions than in 1950. Important results were obtained even during the first quarters of 1951.

The departmental research institutes have continued the work connected with the objectives of the Five-Year Plan. The ICECHIM (Institute of Chemical Research) has begun to consider certain problems connected with the manufacture of intermediates for dyes, medical supplies, and synthetic resins, drying oils, and other chemicals. At the ICER (Institute for Construction Research) studies have been made of raw materials needed in the manufacture of special tiling for floors and ceilings. The Pharmaceutical Institute has continued to study the manufacture of extracted or synthetic medicines.

Despite all successes achieved in 1951, there are still a number of deficiencies. For example, some departmental research institutes still do not have a systematic liaison with industry, and therefore cannot determine the practicality of manufacturing new products. In some cases, the research institute has direct contact with the enterprises but not with their industrial and technical administrations.

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Although the liaison between the departmental research institutes and those of the RPR Academy has improved with better liaison, it is still not systematic and well organized.

Another shortcoming is the failure of some ministries to provide the necessary funds attain the research objectives. To eliminate the deficiencies which still persist, the ministries and the departmental research institutes must give their undivided attention to the completion on schedule of the research tasks prescribed in the State Plan.

To improve research work, it is necessary to apply strictly the provisions of the Decree of the Council of Ministers covering the organization of the departmental research institutes and the relationship of the institutes with the ministries, and particularly with their technical administrations.

#### Technical Organization

Another deficiency which still persists and which must also be remedied is the lack of systematic and organized liaison between the departmental research institutes and the enterprises.

The achievement of the objectives set forth in the State Plan requires numerous technical measures. These organization measures are also needed for the other components of the State Plan. the production plan, the labor and wage plan, and others. To achieve the production goals and have production correctly organized, to have full utilization of equipment, to raise the productivity of labor and assure a planned decrease in costs, certain organizational measures are necessary.

While the State Plan contains only general technical organization measures of importance to the entire national economy, each enterprise plan must be as detailed and concrete as possible and must include a plan for the mobilization of the internal reserves.

In drawing up the plan for organization, great importance must be attached to the most pressing problems of the enterprise: the elimination of bottlenecks, the fight against waste of time and materials, the reduction of the number of rejects, the improvement of quality, of working conditions, and labor security, and other items. All employees must contribute in drawing up the organization plan by making suggestions for rationalization and for innovations.

It is necessary to determine the aim and the extent of each new method, to appoint those responsible, to set aside funds required and the means of financing, and to estimate its probable effectiveness. This will assure the proper conditions for the practical application of all the progressive initiative of the workers and all the measures for the improvement of the technology and the organization of production conceived by the engineers, technicians, and leading workers.

During 1950, a number of organizational measures were introduced. They included daily individual and team records in many plants in the mining, iron and steel, metallurgical processing, and textile industries. In the petroleum industry, complex work teams were established. In machine building enterprises, measures were taken to record the length of time the machine tools are in operation.

In the paper and cellulose industry, planned repair work on the machinery was introduced with good results. In the textile and leather industries, a number of technical organization measures were introduced to improve the quality of

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the products, to shorten the production cycles (cotton, leather), and to stabilize and reduce specific kinds of raw material use. In the ready-made clothing branch, the moving-belt system of work has been generalized.

The plan for technical organization measures was not always given proper attention, however. During 1950, the plant managements did not make a sustained effort to carry out and apply the planned measures. In many enterprises it was not even known who was responsible for carrying out the plan for technical organization measures. Many of the measures were only partially carried out. Daily work records were not used by all the enterprises in the iron and steel industry.

In the metallurgical processing industry, measures were instituted to maintain a constant check on the quality of products and to improve control over manufacture, but these measures were not extended to all the enterprises and all the products.

In some cases, no effort was made to coordinate the plan for organization with the investment plan and thus no money was available to apply some of these measures.

Methods for reduction in the use of electric power during peak periods of use, and also to reduce consumption of energy for certain specified uses were only partly worked out. These methods were not adopted by all the enterprises, although they have given good results wherever they were applied. Time limits were not indicated clearly enough, and there was inadequate coordination with the investment plan.

These shortcomings were largely eliminated in the drafting of the Five-Year Plan for 1951 - 1955. Suggestions were made by the enterprises. Individual measures were defined more clearly, the time limits for the preparatory work and for its adoption were fixed, and those responsible for carrying it out were designated. There was also a more thorough division of the duties.

During the first half of 1951, the enterprises and the ministries adopted a number of technical organization measures which contributed to the achievement of the production objectives. In some of the enterprises under the Ministry of Construction, materials analysis laboratories were set up and model work projects were organized. The Ministry of Food Industry introduced in its enterprises production charts for manufacturing phases and the regrouping of machinery.

There are still enterprises which have not devoted enough attention to the technical plan. No one individual was made responsible for the execution of this essential portion of the technical plan. No record was kept, or check made, on proper fulfillment of the plan. For example, the Directorate of Electrical Energy failed to give sufficient attention to this plan. No record was kept of consumption by the industry itself. Laboratories failed to introduce oil regeneration, the periodic determination through analysis of the calorific power of combustibles.

Daily individual work records were introduced in most enterprises in the metal-processing industry, but some plants did not give enough attention to this matter.

In order that all the objectives of the plan may be achieved, it is absolutely necessary that the plan for technical organization measures be fulfilled precisely and on schedule. It is the duty of the enterprises to keep a close and systematic check on the execution of the technical organization measures provided for in the State Plan. The ministries must assist and guide the enterprises and encourage the general application of the measures which contribute to

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the improvement of the production processes. The enterprises must provide the facilities and equipment needed for the introduction of the new measures, and they must see that they have the funds they need in order to achieve the objectives of the State Plan.

The active participation of the leading workers and innovators must be secured in drafting the plan for technical organization measures. The technical plan must include the application of innovations and rationalization methods and also their extension according to plan. It must contain measures which will help reduce losses of all kinds during the production process including reduction of the number of rejects.

#### Mechanization

Another important part of the technical plan is the mechanization of heavy and large-volume work. This mechanization constitutes one of the important ways of increasing the productivity of labor. One of the first which must be mechanized is the mining industry, particularly coal mining. Mechanization is being carried out here first in the operations of penetrating rock, cutting in the galleries, and transportation underground and to the surface. In the building industry, great importance is attached to the mechanization of such operations as digging, the preparation of concrete and mortar, and the vertical and horizontal transport of materials; and in forestry to the felling and cutting of timber, and its transportation.

The mechanization of agricultural work -- plowing, sowing, and harvesting -- is an absolute prerequisite for the socialist transformation of agriculture.

The mechanization for 1951 called for 22 new installations in the coal, construction, lumber, and transport industries and in agriculture. The General Directorate for Coal completed 26.4 percent of its quota during the second quarter of the current year, thus exceeding the entire assigned yearly quota. In underground transportation, the General Directorate for Coal accomplished 33.8 percent of the yearly quota for mechanization during the same quarter. Sovromcarbune (Soviet-Rumanian Coal Enterprise) achieved 93.1 percent mechanization in the cutting of coal.

However, many enterprises and ministries have not yet devoted sufficient attention to mechanized transport within plants.

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